

**MINNESOTA WETLANDS EASEMENT EVALUATION WORKSHEET**

\_\_\_ **WRP**  
 \_\_\_ **RIM-WRP**

**I. ENVIRONMENTAL SCORE****A. GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY – FROM APPENDIX 1****SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_**B. LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE**

RESULTANT WETLAND TYPE							
Depressional				Floodplain – Ponding and Flood Frequency		Non-depressional (flats, swales, bogs)	
<i>Complex -Number of Restorable Basins</i>	Upland : Wetland Ratio			<i>Easement Size</i>	Frequently flooded or ponded	Other	<i>Easement Size</i>
	<b>≥1:1</b>	<b>0.5:1-.9:1</b>	<b>&lt;0.5:1</b>	<b>≥ 120</b>	10	5	<b>≥ 120</b>
≥ 5	15	10	5	40 – 119	5	3	40 – 119
3 – 4	10	5	3	< 40	3	0	< 40
< 3	5	3	3				
<i>Single basin ( minimum 100' buffer)</i>							
≥ 50 acres				15			
30 -50 acres				10			
< 30 acres				5			
<b>Score</b> _____							

**C. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY BENEFITS**

RESULT OF RESTORATION PRACTICE						
<b>PRESENT HYDROLOGIC MANIPULATION</b>	<b>Depressional &gt; 80% of hydrology restored</b>	<b>Depressional 30 -79% of hydrology restored</b>	<b>Depressional &lt;30 % of hydrology restored</b>	<b>Floodplain – Hydrology restored (ex. Levee removal)</b>	<b>Floodplain – No hydrology manipulation</b>	<b>Non-depressional (flats/swales/ bogs)</b>
PC/FW (hydrology manipulation) or a wetland previously restored under a partner program	35	20	0	20		3
FWP	20	10	0	10	5	0
PC/ FW (woody vegetation removal)					5	0
Wetland cropped under natural conditions	5	0	0		0	0
<b>WEIGHTED SCORE</b>						
	<b>Point Category</b>		<b>% of Total Restored Wetlands</b>		<b>Weighted Points</b>	
• PC/FW (hydrologic manipulation), or wetland restored under a state or federal program	_____	x	_____ %	=	_____	points
• FWP	_____	x	_____ %	=	_____	points
• PC/FW (woody vegetation manipulation)	_____	x	_____ %	=	_____	points
• W cropped under natural conditions	_____	x	_____ %	=	_____	points
			100 %			
<b>Total = Score</b> _____						

**TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

(440-V-CPM, Amend. MN-63, June 2008)

**II. COST FACTORS****A. PER ACRE EASEMENT COST FACTOR**

$$\frac{\$2000 - \text{Easement value}_{\underline{1}} \text{ or Landowner lessor bid}}{400}$$

Score 2/ \_\_\_\_\_1/ 100% of site specific county RIM value2/ Minimum score is 0 (no negative values)**B. PER ACRE RESTORATION COST FACTOR**

(wetland restoration + adjacent lands restoration)

- $\leq \$100$  per acre = 5
- If restoration cost is  $> \$100/\text{acre}$ , then use the following formula

$$\frac{\$2000 - \text{total per acre restoration cost}}{400}$$

Score \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEDERAL COST SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_**III. OTHER FACTORS (maximum 20 points)**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Easement is <u>beneficial to</u> , and within 1 mile of breeding/population of state or federally listed Threatened or Endangered species as identified by DNR Natural Heritage Database. | 5 points |
| 2. Local high priority resource project (site specific projects only, not focus areas).  | 5 points |
| 3. Site is within a designated Habitat Conservation Partnership or Working Land Initiative project area  | 5 points |
| 4. Cultural resource present in the easement as identified by SHPO database.   | 5 points |
| 5. Site is within 1 mile of an <u>existing</u> permanent conservation area (public land, public waters, shallow lakes, conservation easement etc).   | 5 points |
| 6. CRP contract or limited duration RIM or USFWS easement expiring within 5 years  | 5 points |
| 7. Partner contribution will reduce USDA easement cost by $\geq 10\%$ , or USDA restoration costs by $\geq 20\%$ . (Non RIM/WRP only)  | 5 points |

**TOTAL OTHER FACTORS** \_\_\_\_\_

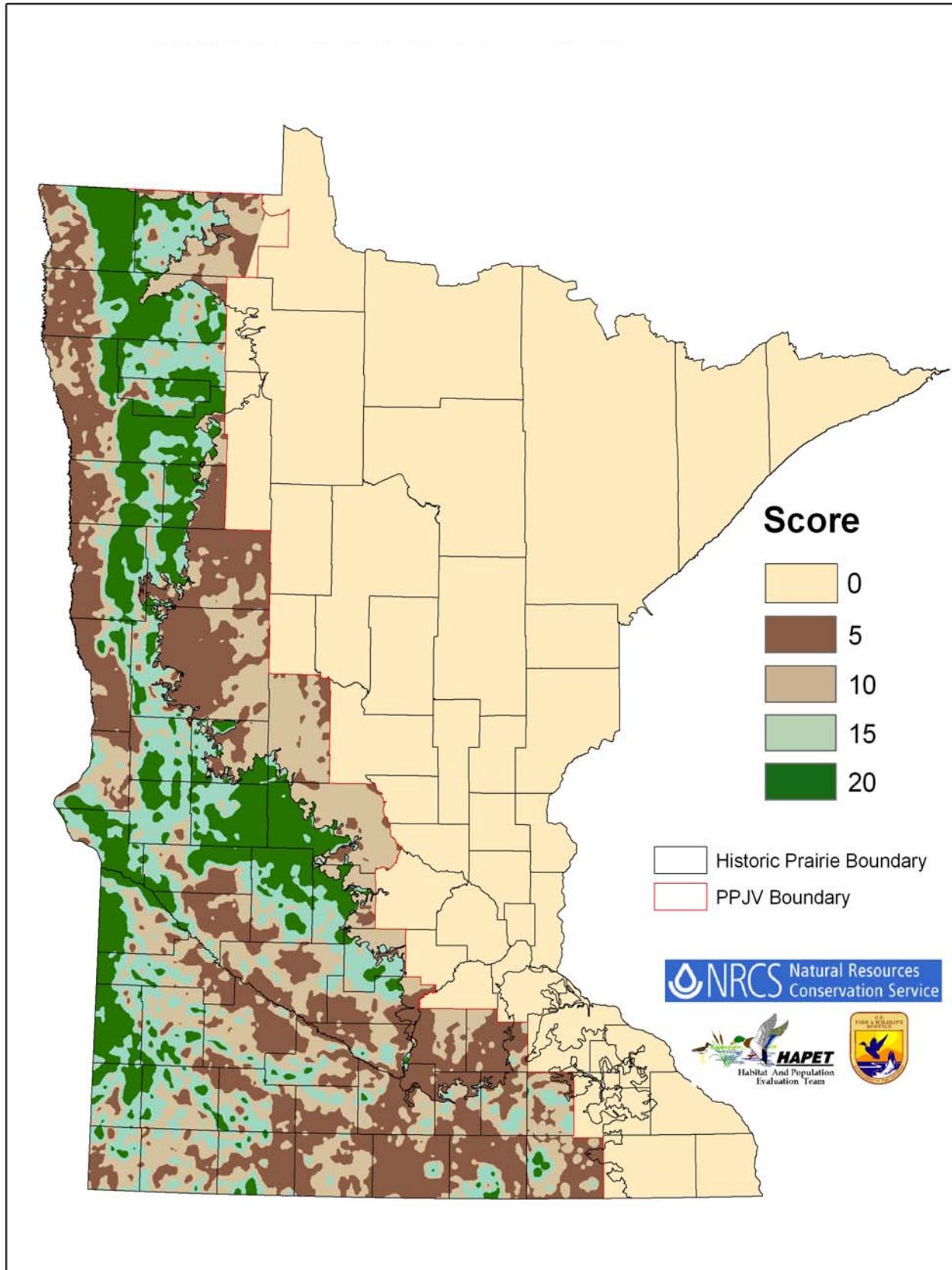
(maximum 20 points)

**IV. FINAL SCORE:**

Environmental Score + Cost factor score + Other score

**FINAL SCORE** = \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 1 – Geographic Priority. Refer to GIS Data for Site Specific Score



**Worksheet Instructions****I. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

A. **Geographic Priority:** Identify the Section where the offer is located and score appropriately. Priority areas reflect an analysis of critical habitat for migratory birds and wetland dependent wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

B. **Landscape Significance:** Score this factor based upon the type of wetland resulting from restoration activity, in relation to the size of the entire easement. Refer to the county hydric soils list for guidance on landscape position (depressional, floodplain, flats, swales etc.) by hydric soil map unit, and hydric criteria. General hydric criteria are as follows:

<b><u>SYMBOL</u></b>	<b><u>CRITERIA</u></b>	<b><u>TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION</u></b>
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific).
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways, bogs.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long -very long duration.

C. **Hydrology And Water Quality Benefits:** Score this factor as the weighted sum of the restored wetland portion of the entire easement. Present hydrologic manipulation is based on USDA - Food Security Act definition.

**Example:** A pothole easement will have 10 ac. of restored wetlands as follows: 5 ac. of existing PC/FW, 3 ac. of existing FWP and 2 ac. of wetlands farmed under natural conditions.

<b>WEIGHTED SCORE</b>	<b>Point Category</b>		<b>% of Total Restored Wetlands</b>	<b>Weighted Points</b>
• PC/FW (hydrologic manipulation), or wetland restored under a state or federal program	<u>35</u>	x	<u>50</u> %	= <u>17.5</u> points
• FWP	<u>20</u>	x	<u>30</u> %	= <u>6.0</u> points
• PC/FW (woody vegetation manipulation)	<u>    </u>	x	<u>    </u> %	= <u>    </u> points
• W cropped under natural conditions	<u>5</u>	x	<u>20</u> %	= <u>1.0</u> points
				<u>24.5</u> points

**II. COST FACTOR**

A. **Per Acre Easement Cost:** For purposes of evaluation, subtract the site specific county per acre 100% RIM value (or landowner lessor bid) from \$2000, and divide by 400. Minimum score is 0, no negative values.

B. **Per Acre Restoration Cost:** This factor applies to the sum of the total estimated wetland and adjacent land restoration cost. Subtract the total per acre restoration cost from \$2000, and divide by 400.

**III. OTHER FACTORS - Score 5 points for each of the identified factors up to a maximum of 20 points.**

- Threatened and Endangered species as **identified by the MDNR Natural Heritage Database** must be within 1 mile of the easement, and the easement cover is beneficial to the species. For occurrences within 1.0 miles, a letter supporting the habitat benefit must be provided by USFWS for federal species and MDNR for state species. If federal or state listed species occur within the easement, NRCS will review the easement effect pursuant to GM 190, Part 410.22.
- Site specific projects identified locally as addressing high priority resource concerns. Does not include geographic focus areas. If a site specific project is also located in an area identified in Other Factors #3, points may be taken in both items.
- Projects located within an identified Habitat Conservation Partnership or Working Lands Initiative project area.
- Cultural resources as identified by the SHPO database located within the easement.
- Easement is located within 1 mile of existing permanent conservation/natural area (state and federal land, public waters, shallow lakes, conservation easement etc).
- CRP contract or limited duration RIM or USFWS easement expiring within 5 years.
- Partner contribution will reduce USDA easement cost by  $\geq 10\%$  and/or restoration cost by  $\geq 20\%$ . Non-RIM/WRP easements only.